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Good Morning.

This morning the FDA & CDC recommended a “pause” in the use of J&J single dose Covid-19 vaccine.

Federally run vaccination sites are suspending the use of the vaccine and it is being recommended to state and local agencies that they do the same.

Locally the City-Cowley County Health Department out of an abundance of caution will suspend the administration of J&J vaccine until such time as the FDA & CDC have concluded their investigation and can once again determine the use of the vaccine is safe.

The concern stems from the fact that six (6) recipients in the United States developed a rare blood clot disorder within two weeks of being vaccinated. All of the adverse events have occurred in women between ages 18 – 48. One woman has died and another is hospitalized currently.

Nearly 7 million doses of J&J have been administered in the US to date. In Cowley County we estimate that fewer than 1000 people have been given J&J the Health Department has administered 300 doses locally. There have been no reports of adverse reactions to any COVID-19 vaccines provided in Cowley County to date.

The FDA and CDC are working to review the cases and determine if the continued use of the vaccine is warranted, they will be meeting in the next few days.

The Health Department will continue to provide Moderna vaccine to individuals. Moderna is a two dose vaccination protocol that has proven to be 94% effective. The Health Department has administered over 5200 doses of Moderna locally with no severe side effects being reported. The Health Department strongly urges any individuals that were wanting to be vaccinated with the single dose vaccine to instead opt for the two dose alternative.

The Health Department will continue to provide updates to the community as any new information becomes available.